

# 2004-05/2005-06 Idaho Trapping Season



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Please note: all changes new this year are highlighted in green text.

# IDFG Regional Offices



*Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) offices are open Monday through Friday, except state holidays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific time zone; all others are in the Mountain time zone. To report wildlife crimes, call **1-800-632-5999**.*

*Emergency information can be relayed to IDFG personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.*

## FOR INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE:

**HEADQUARTERS** ..... (208) 334-3700

P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707

**PANHANDLE REGION** ..... (208) 769-1414

2750 Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**CLEARWATER REGION** ..... (208) 799-5010

1540 Warner Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501

**SOUTHWEST REGION** ..... (208) 465-8465

3101 S. Powerline Rd., Nampa, ID 83686

**McCALL SUBREGION** ..... (208) 634-8137

555 Deinhard Ln., McCall, ID 83638

**MAGIC VALLEY REGION** ..... (208) 324-4350

P.O. Box 428, Jerome, ID 83338

**SOUTHEAST REGION** ..... (208) 232-4703

1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello, ID 83204

**UPPER SNAKE REGION** ..... (208) 525-7290

4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

**SALMON REGION** ..... (208) 756-2271

1215 Hwy. 93 N., P.O. Box 1336, Salmon, ID 83467

IDAHO RELAY (TDD) SERVICE ..... 1-800-377-3529

INTERNET ADDRESS ..... [www.fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov)

## CITIZENS AGAINST POACHING

# 1-800-632-5999

## Report Wildlife Crimes

# 2004-2006 Fees

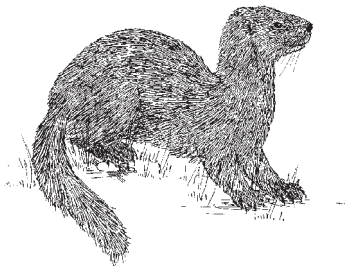
## Resident

Trapping (expires June 30) .....	\$26.50
Juvenile (through 17 years) .....	\$6.50
Taxidermist/Fur Buyer (expires June 30) .....	\$36.50

## Nonresident

Trapping (expires June 30) .....	\$251.50
Taxidermist/Fur Buyer (expires June 30) .....	\$126.50

*\* Only residents from those states with reciprocal trapping agreements can purchase a nonresident trapping license.*



**Internet sales:** If you are interested in purchasing licenses or tags over the Internet, see "What's New" on the IDFG website at **[www.fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov)**

**TO RECEIVE NONRESIDENT LICENSE APPLICATIONS, CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-635-7820.** *If you purchase a nonresident license this year, you will automatically receive an application form for the following year. Applications will be mailed in November.*

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

**Proof of residency** is required before issuance of any resident license. A resident is defined as any person who has been domiciled in the state of Idaho, with a bona fide intent to make this his/her place of permanent abode, for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date of application for any license, tag or permit. *Domicile* means the place where an individual has his/her true, fixed, permanent home to which he/she has the intention of returning whenever he/she is absent.

**A driver must produce his/her Idaho driver's license as proof of residency;** or a nondriver must produce suitable proof of residency, such as an Idaho Identification Card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, documents bearing his/her name and address (not issued by himself/ herself) such as: in the case of a child under 18, identification from a parent; **OR by producing two of the following:** rent receipts or mortgage statements for the previous six months, home utility bills for the previous six months, notarized statement from an employer on business letterhead, or proof of voter registration dated six months prior. *A previous year's hunting license is not proof of residency. Ownership of property or paying of taxes within the state of Idaho is NOT a qualification for residency.* No one can claim Idaho resident privileges while claiming resident privileges in another state (except military personnel).

A member of the military service of the U. S. or of a foreign country, together with spouse and children under 18 years of age, residing in his/her household, who have been officially transferred, stationed, domiciled, and on active duty in the state of Idaho for a period of 30 days preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such assignment continues, to purchase a resident license. A member of the Idaho National or Air National Guard, domiciled in Idaho for 30 days preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such residency continues, to purchase a resident license.

Idaho residents who are in the U.S. military service, and maintain Idaho as their official state of residence as shown on their current leave and earnings statement, together with spouse and children (under 18 years of age) residing in his/her household shall be eligible to purchase a resident license. The service person himself/herself is eligible to buy a furlough license from any vendor while on leave. Other permits and validations must be attached as required.

# Ethics and Responsibility

Many people view trapping and the use of fur as controversial issues. Much of this controversy stems from misinformation and misunderstandings from both sides. As trappers we know that our sport is a legitimate use of a natural renewable resource, but it is often difficult to express this in terms that nontrappers can appreciate.

Demonstrating ethics and responsibility while trapping sends many positive messages that nontrappers understand and appreciate more than any explanation. These ethics relay the message that we are proud to be trappers, we care about our sport, and we care about the resource we're using.

Key ingredients for trappers who care about their sport:

## ■ **Maintain Good Landowner Relations**

Obtaining permission to trap is more than the law; it's an opportunity to earn respect by respecting landowners and their property. Practice common sense and courtesy by leaving gates the way you found them, walking or using a four-wheeler when fields and field roads are too wet to drive, and avoiding sets that might result in non-target catches.

## ■ **Respect Other Outdoor Enthusiasts**

Autumn and winter are popular times for many outdoor activities like hunting, hiking, bird watching, and cross-country skiing. Taking the time to find out which activities are likely to take place in an area you're trapping is the first step in avoiding any misunderstandings between you, the landowner, and others sharing the property. Most activities are compatible with trapping and don't require further thought. If an area receives a lot of hunting pressure, you can time your use of a property to avoid peak times that hunters tend to choose, like opening weekends and holidays.

## ■ **Keep Familiar With Improvements in Trapping Equipment and Techniques**

Improving efficiency, selectivity, and humaneness isn't a new idea for the trapping industry. However, research and development are occurring at a faster pace today and require more effort to keep abreast of state-of-the-art developments in equipment and methods.

## ■ **Appreciate Perceptions of Nontrappers**

Differences in backgrounds, cultures, and experiences can cause misinterpretation of your words, deeds, and actions. Keep this in mind when communicating with nontrappers. Most people know very little about trapping. Make an effort to communicate on their level. Above all, remember that high standards of ethics and responsibility form a message that can't be mistaken.

## ■ **Respect the Resource**

Ethical trappers respect the resource they use. Part of this involves making the most of your catch, such as looking for secondary markets for carcasses, castoreum and other by-products. Use by-products for baits and lures when possible. If not, dispose of carcasses properly.

Wildlife laws are designed to conserve our fur resources while allowing for responsible harvest. Become familiar with and obey all regulations. Report violations to the conservation officers. Violators are stealing from trappers and nontrappers alike, and giving the sport a bad name.

Be proud to be a trapper and a good representative for others who enjoy the sport.



## Some Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Humaneness

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold more animals and reduce the chance of injuries.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets, especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use “stop-loss” traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species – pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon and many other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps – tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.
- Use traps with padded or laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use discretion when setting body-gripping traps or snares.
- Use time to your advantage – don’t set more traps than you can handle.



# Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are a set of recommendations about how to improve an activity – in this case trapping – developed by using sound scientific research and consideration of regional, social, and economic factors. **The implementation of BMPs for trapping is voluntary and will ensure the continued responsible management of furbearers in the United States.**

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Fur Resources Committee is responsible for this project. Professional furbearer biologists, state wildlife agencies, and trappers are developing the BMPs. BMPs will be available to the state agencies and trappers for incorporation into trapper education and furbearer management programs.

- BMPs will be based on regional differences in trapping conditions (e.g., climate, species trapped, and habitat) because these conditions differ throughout the nation.
- BMPs will be developed for specific trapping conditions (e.g., land vs. water) in a given region.
- BMPs will recognize the fact that a given trap may be set to catch several target species.
- BMPs will include descriptions of the best traps and recommendations for setting traps.

## Three Key Messages to Use When Educating the Public About Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management

- Furbearing animals are an abundant, renewable resource.

Some people have the notion that furbearing animals are rare or endangered. We need to reassure them that legally trapped animals are numerous and their populations secure.

- Trapping is controlled through strict regulations that are enforced by conservation officers.

People may fear that trapping is a “free-for-all,” with no sort of control or regulation. To overcome this fear, we must reinforce the message that trapping is a highly regulated activity in Idaho and nationwide.

■ Trapping provides a wide range of benefits to society.

People often ask, “Is trapping really necessary?” We need to tell them about the wildlife management, economic (to the trapper and for damage control), and lifestyle benefits of trapping.

## FURBEARERS GENERAL INFORMATION

### It Is Unlawful

- To trap without a valid trapper’s license.
- To destroy or damage a muskrat or beaver house.
- To trap in or on a muskrat house.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To use any part of a **domestic or wild origin** game bird, game animal, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife for bait in trapping furbearing animals, unprotected wildlife, or predatory wildlife.
- To set, place or stake any trap or snare during the closed season.
- To possess a *live* furbearer taken from the wild.
- To hunt wildlife, except raccoon, by the aid of a spotlight, flashlight, or artificial light of any kind.
- To buy furs without a valid fur buyers license.

### **Hunting, Trapping, Fishing — LICENSE REQUIREMENT.**

No person shall hunt, trap, or fish for or take any wild animal, bird or fish, of this state, without first having procured a license.

## DEFINITIONS

Drainage is defined as the geographic region or area that provides water to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, or reservoir. It includes the specific body of water and all its tributaries.

“Trapping” shall mean taking, killing, and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance of any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls or other devices.

**Bait is defined as any animal parts; except bleached bones or liquid scent is not considered bait.**

Furbearing animals are defined as the following species: marten, fisher, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, red fox (includes all color phases found in Idaho), raccoon, and badger.

Predatory wildlife is defined as the following species: coyote, jackrabbit, skunk and weasel.

**Special classifications for some animals extend extra protection to those species. The following animals cannot be hunted, taken or possessed:**

Threatened or endangered animals include the following species: Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, northern Idaho ground squirrel, and bald eagle.

The following species are classified as protected nongame wildlife: red (pine) squirrel, wolverine, chipmunks, golden-mantled ground squirrel, Columbia Plateau (Merriam's) ground squirrel (*vigilis* subspecies only), Great Basin (Piute) ground squirrel (*artemesiae* subspecies only), rock squirrel, southern Idaho ground squirrel, Wyoming ground squirrel (*nevadensis* subspecies only), northern flying squirrel, pika, kit fox, and bats

(all species). All native species of amphibians and reptiles are protected. Please see the 2004-2006 Upland Game brochure for a map of the geographic locations of protected ground squirrels or contact your local Fish and Game regional office for more information.

All birds in Idaho are protected EXCEPT starlings, English sparrows, and pigeons. Protected nongame birds cannot be hunted, taken or possessed (including parts of birds, even if found dead). All hawks, owls, eagles, and vultures are protected. Game birds may be taken only in accordance with established hunting rules.

Unprotected wildlife is defined as all animals OTHER than those classified by the Fish and Game Commission as big game animals, upland game animals, game birds, game fish, crustacea, migratory birds, furbearing animals, threatened or endangered wildlife, protected nongame wildlife, or predatory wildlife.



## Closed Statewide:

There is no open  
season for fisher,  
kit fox, lynx,  
wolverine, or wolf.

## IDENTIFICATION TAGS FOR TRAPS

All traps or snares, except those used for pocket gophers, ground squirrels or other unprotected rodents, shall have attached to the snare or the chain of every trap, a metal tag bearing in legible English the name and current address of the trapper; or a six-digit number assigned by IDFG. Any person wishing to mark his or her traps and/or snares with a six-digit number must make application to IDFG at a regional office, the McCall office, or the headquarters office. Any person who has been assigned a six-digit number to mark his or her traps and/or snares must notify IDFG in writing at the McCall office, a regional office, or the headquarters office within 30 days of any change in address.

## CONTROLLED TRAPPING PERMITS

No person may trap in a controlled trapping unit for the designated species without having a valid permit in possession for that controlled trapping unit.

In the event that a permit is issued based on erroneous information, the permit will be invalidated and may NOT be used. IDFG will notify the permittee of the invalidation of the permit.

**Eligibility:** Any person possessing a valid Idaho trapping license is eligible to apply for a controlled trapping unit permit.

**Applications:** Applications for controlled trapping permits shall be made on a form available at all IDFG offices and must be received at the headquarters office of IDFG, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or postmarked not later than September 15 of each year.

Any application which is unreadable, has incomplete or incorrect trapping license numbers, or which lacks the required information or fee will be declared void and will not be entered in the drawing. All applications will be considered final. They may not be resubmitted after correction.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- No person may submit more than one application for a controlled beaver trapping permit.
- No group applications will be accepted.

**Controlled Trapping Permit Drawing:** Applications that are not drawn for the first choice unit will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing, provided the second choice applied for has not been filled.

If an insufficient number of first choice applications is received for a unit, remaining permits will be filled from applications listing the unit as a second choice.

Any permits left unfilled after the second choice drawing may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Successful Applicants:** Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must contact the person listed on the notice by October 14 to obtain the permit. The permittee, upon agreeing to follow trapping instructions for the unit, will be issued a permit.

**Revocation of Permits:** Any permittee who does not comply with trapping laws, rules, proclamations, or the instructions for the trapping unit may have his or her permit revoked.

**Alternate Permittee:** Any revoked permit may be issued to an alternate, selected at the time of the drawing. If there is no alternate, or the alternate fails to comply with the “Successful Applicants” section above, the permit may be issued to the first eligible trapper answering a notification of vacant trapping unit as approved by the Regional Supervisor.



# MANDATORY FURTKER HARVEST REPORT

All trappers are required to fill out the mandatory furtaker harvest report form provided by IDFG. The completed mandatory report must be returned to IDFG, Bureau of Wildlife, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, by July 31. Any trapper failing to send in a report by July 31 shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year. (It would be helpful to IDFG personnel to receive the report forms as soon as trappers are able to submit them. This will assist us in getting the departmental progress reports done in a timely manner.)

All permittees shall return their controlled trapping unit permits and controlled trapping reports to the office from which they obtained their controlled trapping unit permits within 10 days of the close of the season for the controlled trapping unit.

## TRAPS

**Checking Traps:** No person shall place snares or traps for furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife, EXCEPT pocket gophers, most species of ground squirrels, and other unprotected rodents, without visiting every trap or snare once every 72 hours and removing any catch therein.

Trappers acting under authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services are exempt from this rule.

**Removing Trapped Animals of Another:** No person shall remove wildlife from the trap or snare of another EXCEPT licensed trappers with written permission from the owner.

**Release of Non-Target Catches:** All non-target species caught alive shall be released immediately. **NON-TARGET SPECIES ARE DEFINED AS ANY SPECIES CAUGHT FOR WHICH THE SEASON IS CLOSED.** If difficulty is encountered releasing a trapped fisher, wolverine, lynx, or mountain lion, please contact IDFG immediately for assistance.

Any trapper who catches a non-target species that is dead shall:

- Prior to removing the animal, record the date and species of the animal caught.
- Report the catch on the mandatory furtaker harvest report form.
- Remove the animal from the trap and take it into possession.
- Notify IDFG through the local conservation officer, a regional office, or the McCall office within 72 hours to make arrangements to transfer the animal to IDFG.
- IDFG will reimburse trappers \$10.00 for each lynx, wolverine, bobcat, or fisher caught accidentally and turned in. A \$10.00 reward will also be paid for otters accidentally taken after the regional quota has been met.

## METHODS OF TAKE

**Definition of Bait:** Bait is any animal parts; except bleached bones or liquid scent is not considered bait.

**Furbearing Animals:** No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, or otter by any method other than trapping. In Valley County and portions of Adams County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

**Trapping:** No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Use for bait, any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, game animal, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife.
- Use live animals as bait or an attractant.
- Use any set within thirty (30) feet of any visible bait.
- Use a dirt hole set with bait unless the person ensures that the bait remains covered at all times to protect raptors and other meat-eating birds from being caught accidentally.

**Hunting:** In addition to predatory or unprotected wildlife, the following furbearers may be hunted: badger, bobcat, raccoon, and red fox.



Dogs may be used to hunt or pursue **ONLY** the following wildlife, **ONLY** under the conditions listed, and **ONLY** if not prohibited by current rules:

To take or pursue black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, fox, raccoon, unprotected and predatory wildlife provided that the following conditions are met:

- a. There is an open take or pursuit season for the species and in the area to be hunted.
- b. Use of dogs is allowed during the take season in the areas to be hunted.
- c. No firearm season for deer or elk is open in the area to be hunted (EXCEPT dogs may be used during muzzleloader hunts and controlled hunts during September and from November 25 to December 31, and raccoons may be taken or pursued during firearm seasons for deer or elk).
- d. Anyone who owns pursuit dogs or is in control of the dogs owned by another person must have a valid hound hunter permit in possession when dogs are being used to hunt or pursue fox, raccoon, bobcat, mountain lion and black bears.

### Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs):

All state game preserves and IDFG Wildlife Management Areas are open to the taking of furbearing animals by licensed trappers during the open season declared for the areas in which they lie.

Trappers who are trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office: Billingsley Creek, Boise River, Andrus, Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh, Carey Lake, Cartier Slough, C.J. Strike, Coeur d'Alene River, Craig Mountain, Fort Boise, Hagerman, Market Lake, McArthur Lake, Montpelier, Mud Lake, Niagara Springs, Payette, Portneuf, Sand Creek, Snow Peak, Sterling, and Tex Creek.

## BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER MANDATORY CHECK AND REPORT

Any person trapping river otter, or taking bobcat whether by hunting or trapping, must comply with the mandatory check and report and pelt tag requirements by:

Presenting the pelts of all bobcat and river otter taken to a regional office, the McCall office, or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report. To have a pelt tagged, the pelt must be legally taken in Idaho and must be presented to a regional office, the McCall office, or designated checkpoint of IDFG during normal working hours—8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See pages 27 and 28 for river otter harvest quotas and additional reporting requirements.

A fee of \$2.00 will be charged for each bobcat pelt tag. An additional \$1.50 vendor fee will be charged to each license holder when either bobcat or otter pelts are brought in for tagging.

No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's official export tag).

No person shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat or otter pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached.

## CLOSED AREAS

Hunting, trapping, killing or molesting of furbearing animals, predatory and unprotected wildlife is prohibited in the following areas except as provided in Idaho Code Section 36-1107:

- Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. All lands contained within Craters of the Moon National Monument prior to the expansion of the park in November 2000 are closed to hunting. Contact the National Park Service (208-527-3257) or [www.nps.gov/crmo](http://www.nps.gov/crmo) for a map indicating

- these boundaries. All other public lands within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve are open to hunting.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.
  - Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce counties.
  - That portion of Ada County:
    - Within Veterans Memorial Park.
    - Within one quarter mile of the Boise River from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Glenwood Bridge.
    - The area between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue and the Boise City limits.
  - Stanley Creek Wildlife Interpretive Area in Custer County.
  - Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
  - On any of those portions of state game preserves, state wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries for which trapping closures have been declared by legislative or commission action.
  - All or portions of national wildlife refuges, EXCEPT as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.

## COMMON SEASON BOUNDARIES

Whenever a stream or river forms a boundary between two different trapping areas for the same furbearer, the stream or river channel proper shall open for trapping on the earliest opening date and close on the latest closing date of the two seasons involved.

# PANHANDLE REGION:

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone  
Counties

<b>Badger *</b>	<b>..... July 1–June 30</b>
<b>Beaver</b>	<b>..... Nov 1–March 31</b>
<b>Bobcat *</b>	<b>..... Dec 14–Feb 16</b>
<b>Fox *</b>	<b>..... Oct 15–Jan 31</b>
<b>Marten</b>	<b>..... Nov 1–Jan 31</b>
<b>Mink</b>	<b>..... Nov 1–March 31</b>
<b>Muskrat</b>	<b>..... Nov 1–March 31</b>
<b>Otter ^</b>	<b>..... Nov 15–March 15</b>
<b>Raccoon *</b>	<b>..... July 1–June 30</b>

**^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.**

**\* Indicates species can also be hunted.**

Information in this brochure summarizes the rules and is the official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of furbearers. The official rules are available from the Division of Statewide Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries.

*IDFG adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or The Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240*

# Clearwater Region:

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties

<b>Badger *</b>	<b>July 1–June 30</b>
<b>Beaver</b>	<b>Nov 1–March 31</b>
<b>Bobcat *</b>	<b>Dec 14–Feb 16</b>
<b>Fox *</b>	<b>Oct 15–Jan 31</b>
<b>Marten</b>	<b>Nov 1–Jan 31</b>
<b>Mink</b>	<b>Nov 1–March 31</b>
<b>Muskrat</b>	<b>Nov 1–March 31</b>
<b>Otter ^</b>	<b>Nov 15–March 15</b>
<b>Raccoon *</b>	<b>July 1–June 30</b>

## EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

**Clearwater County:** East Fork Potlatch River drainage; CLOSED

**Idaho County:** Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Chamberlin Cr., mainstem of Middle Fk. Clearwater R. from Maggie Cr. upstream, mainstem of Lochsa R., Secesh R. above the Long Gulch Bridge, and mainstem of Selway R: CLOSED.

**Latah County:** CLOSED

**Nez Perce County:** All northern tributaries to the Salmon R. downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake R. below the mouth of the Salmon R. excluding the Clearwater River drainage: CLOSED

## EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Mainstem of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Snake R., from Lewiston upstream to Hells Canyon Dam, and the mainstem of the main Salmon R.: CLOSED

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.

## Southwest Region:

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee,  
Payette, Valley & Washington Counties

**Badger \*** ..... **July 1–June 30**

**Beaver** ..... **Nov 1–March 31**

**Bobcat \*** ..... **Dec 14–Feb 16**

**Fox \*** ..... **July 1–June 30**

**Marten** ..... **Nov 1–Jan 31**

**Mink** ..... **Nov 1–March 31**

**Muskrat** ..... **Nov 1–March 31**

**Otter ^** ..... **Nov 15–March 15**

**Raccoon \*** ..... **July 1–June 30**

### EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

**Ada & Boise Counties:** The Boise River WMA; CLOSED.

**Elmore County:** All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), and Wood Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND EXCEPT all lands within the Boise River WMA; CLOSED

**Gem County:** Squaw Cr. above the Ola Bridge; CLOSED.

**Valley County:** Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Johnson Cr. upstream from Landmark, S. Fk. Salmon R. upstream from the fish trap near the mouth of Cabin Cr., Bear Valley Cr., and Sulphur Cr.; CLOSED.

**Washington County:** Raft Creek, Denet Creek, Wolf Creek, Trail Creek, Sumac Creek, Thorn Creek, and Rock Creek on the Rocking M Ranch Conservation easement in Unit 31; CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.

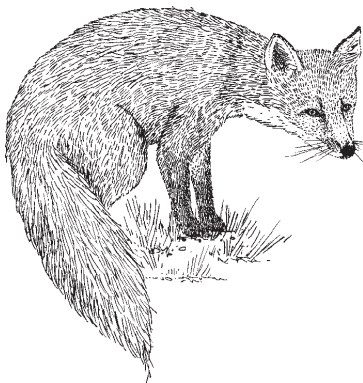
## EXCEPTIONS: FOX

**Adams County:** Private lands within the Little Salmon R. drainage;  
CLOSED

**Valley County:** Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on  
National Forest and State of Idaho lands.

## EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to  
Horseshoe Bend, confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork  
Payette R. downstream to the confluence with the North Fork Payette  
R. at Banks, and Boise R. from Lucky Peak Dam to Caldwell:  
CLOSED



## Magic Valley Region:

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln,  
Minidoka & Twin Falls Counties

**Badger \*** ..... **July 1-June 30**

**Beaver** ..... **Nov 1-March 31**

**Bobcat \*** ..... **Dec 14-Feb 16**

**Fox \*** ..... **July 1-June 30**

**Marten** ..... **Nov 1-Jan 31**

**Mink** ..... **Nov 1-March 31**

**Muskrat** ..... **Nov 1-March 31**

**Otter ^** ..... **Nov 15-March 15**

**Raccoon \*** ..... **July 1-June 30**

### EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

**Blaine County:** All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood R., Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.); and all lands within the following drainages: Little Fish Cr., Hailey Cr., Sheep Cr., and Cold Spring Cr. (trib. to Little Wood R.); CLOSED

**Camas County:** All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Lime C., Little Smoky Cr., and Willow Cr.: CLOSED

**Gooding County:** All public lands within the following drainages: Black Canyon Cr., Clover Cr., and Thorn Cr.: CLOSED

**Lincoln County:** All public lands in Preacher Cr. drainage: CLOSED.

### EXCEPTIONS: MINK

**Gooding County:** Hagerman WMA, Feb 15-Feb 28.

### EXCEPTIONS: MUSKRAT

**Gooding County:** Hagerman WMA, Feb 15 – Feb 28.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.



## Southeast Region:

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin,  
Oneida & Power Counties

**Badger \*** ..... **July 1–June 30**

**Beaver** ..... **Oct 22–April 15**

**Bobcat \*** ..... **Dec 14–Feb 16**

**Fox \*** ..... **July 1–June 30**

**Marten** ..... **Nov 1–Jan 31**

**Mink** ..... **Oct 22–April 15**

**Muskrat** ..... **Oct 22–April 15**

**Otter ^** ..... **Nov 1–March 15**

**Raccoon \*** ..... **July 1–June 30**

### EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

**Bannock County:** Cherry Cr. (trib. to Marsh Cr.), Cottonwood Cr. drainage, Dempsey Cr. above cattleguard, Mink Cr. drainage, and Gibson Jack Cr.: CLOSED

**Bear Lake County:** Pearl Cr. drainage: CLOSED

**Bingham County:** Cedar Cr. and Miner Cr.: CLOSED

**Caribou County:** Dike Lake, Toponce Cr. drainage on National Forest lands, and Pebble Cr. drainage: CLOSED

**Franklin County:** Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages: CLOSED.

### EXCEPTIONS: MARTEN

**Bear Lake & Franklin Counties:** CLOSED

### EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Portneuf R. downstream from Lava Hot Springs.: CLOSED

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.

# Upper Snake Region:

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison & Teton Counties

<b>Badger *</b>	<b>July 1–June 30</b>
<b>Beaver</b>	<b>Oct 22–April 15</b>
<b>Bobcat *</b>	<b>Dec 14–Feb 16</b>
<b>Fox *</b>	<b>July 1–June 30</b>
<b>Marten</b>	<b>Nov 1–Jan 31</b>
<b>Mink</b>	<b>Oct 22–April 15</b>
<b>Muskrat</b>	<b>Oct 22–April 15</b>
<b>Otter ^</b>	<b>Nov 1–March 15</b>
<b>Raccoon *</b>	<b>July 1–June 30</b>

## EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

**Clark County:** Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., West Camas Cr. upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary and **Indian Creek upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary:** CLOSED

**Teton County:** The following drainages upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary: North Twin Creek, South Fork of Pack-saddle Creek, Trail Creek, **Patterson Creek, and Dry Creek including McRenolds Reservoir:** CLOSED

## EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

South Fork Snake R. from Palisades Dam to the Heise Cable, mainstem Buffalo R., mainstem Warm R. and mainstem Henry's Fork R. from Big Springs to **Del Rio Bridge at St. Anthony:** CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.

# Salmon Region:

## Custer & Lemhi Counties

<b>Badger *</b>	<b>..... July 1–June 30</b>
<b>Beaver</b>	<b>..... Oct 22–April 15</b>
<b>Bobcat *</b>	<b>..... Dec 14–Feb 16</b>
<b>Fox *</b>	<b>..... July 1–June 30</b>
<b>Marten</b>	<b>..... Nov 1–Jan 31</b>
<b>Mink</b>	<b>..... Oct 22–April 15</b>
<b>Muskrat</b>	<b>..... Oct 22–April 15</b>
<b>Otter ^</b>	<b>..... Nov 1–March 15</b>
<b>Raccoon *</b>	<b>..... July 1–June 30</b>

### EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

**Custer Co:** Marsh Cr. drainage: CLOSED

**Lemhi Co:** Dahlonge Cr. drainage: CLOSED.

### EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, Id.: CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.  
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.

# CONTROLLED BEAVER TRAPPING UNITS

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>No. of Animals</u>
201	<b>Nov 1 – Mar 31</b> That portion of the East Fork Potlatch River drainage in Latah and Clearwater counties. ....	10
202	<b>Nov 1 – Mar 31</b> That portion of the Palouse River drainage in Latah County upstream from Laird Park Dam. ....	10
203	<del><b>Oct 22 – Apr 15</b> That portion of the Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County that is on National Forest lands. ....</del>	<b>CLOSED</b> <del>10</del>
204	<b>Oct 22 – Apr 15</b> Pebble Creek Unit in Caribou County. Pebble Creek drainage. ....	10
205	<b>Oct 22 – Apr 15</b> Pearl Creek in Bear Lake County .....	5

## DOG TRAINING SEASONS

Bobcat may NOT be killed during dog training seasons, which open after the close of the bobcat take season and run concurrently with mountain lion take or dog training seasons in game management units which are open to mountain lion take or dog training seasons. (See current big game seasons brochure.)



# RIVER OTTER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Pelts must be tagged by IDFG personnel at the regional office in the region in which the animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest to the appropriate regional office or field personnel within 72 hours and make arrangements for tagging at the proper regional office. Pelts not registered or presented to IDFG personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.
- River otter carcasses do not have to be turned in to IDFG, **EXCEPT** for otters harvested after the season has closed, or otters in excess of the trappers' personal quota of two. Check with the IDFG regional office for further information when reporting a harvest.
- No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 72 hours after the close of the season, any raw otter pelt legally harvested in Idaho which does not have an official state export tag attached.

## Season Limits:

- A maximum limit of 2 otters is allowed for any one trapper, provided the harvest quota for that region is not exceeded.

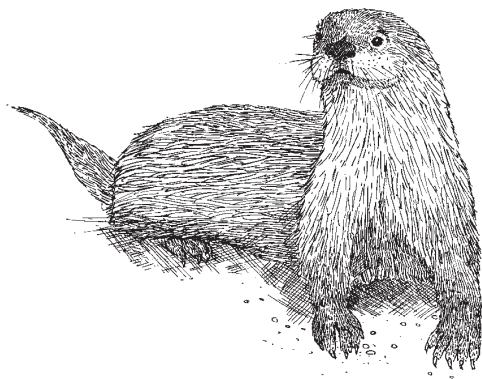
## Quota/Season Closure:

- The otter season will close in each region 48 hours after the harvest quota for that region is reached. Trappers will be allowed to keep otters within this 48-hour period provided their personal quota of 2 has not been reached. Any otters trapped and brought in 48 hours after the regional quota is met must be surrendered to the Department for a **\$10.00** reward. Otter may only be turned in for reporting and tagging within the region where they were harvested.

- Current otter harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate IDFG regional office during normal business hours or by calling **1-800-323-4334** 24 hours a day. The otter season will close statewide no later than March 15.
- All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. Additional closures have been identified for the purpose of reducing potential conflicts between trappers and other user groups.

## RIVER OTTER TRAPPING QUOTAS

<u>REGION</u>	<u>HARVEST QUOTA</u>
Panhandle .....	15
Clearwater .....	15
Southwest .....	30
Magic Valley .....	20
Southeast .....	2
Upper Snake .....	10
Salmon .....	15
STATEWIDE TOTAL .....	107



# TRAPPERS AND HUNTERS

## Be sure of what you trap or shoot.

The take and possession of lynx are prohibited, therefore every effort should be taken to minimize the potential for a lynx to be incidentally trapped, and to increase the likelihood that an incidentally trapped lynx can be released uninjured by ensuring:

(1) Traps are checked at a frequency such that injury to an incidentally trapped lynx is minimized; thereby increasing the opportunity to release the animal unharmed or increase the potential for successful rehabilitation.

(2) The use of trap types and/or sets that provide the greatest potential for lynx to be released uninjured.

All uninjured lynx trapped or treed in a chase hunt must be released immediately on site.

Because bobcats and lynx are very similar in many ways (see page 36 and the back inside cover for comparisons), trappers should know how to identify each species and its habitat, how to avoid catching lynx, and what to do if a lynx is caught incidentally.

### Habitat

Bobcats seem to prefer areas with high prey abundance and dense understory vegetation or with rocky ledges and outcrops. They often frequent forest edges and areas with dense undergrowth. Bobcats thrive in a variety of habitats including mature forests, mixed stands of hardwood and conifers, brushy habitats, deserts, and farmland habitats.

Generally, lynx will be where snowshoe hares are, primarily in forested areas with ample understory vegetation. Mature forests often provide suitable habitat, but forests that are growing back after fire or logging often provide excellent food and cover for hares, attracting lynx.

## Trapping Methods for Capturing Bobcats While Avoiding Lynx

While bobcats and lynx are similar in size and habits, the two species depend upon different prey species so they commonly use different habitat types that provide hunting opportunities for either cottontail rabbits or snowshoe hares.

To select for bobcats, trap sets should be made near rocks, ridges, and trees in semi-open country where cottontail rabbits abound. Excellent locations to trap foxes, coyotes, and bobcats are also found along the edges and corners of open meadows, pastures, and abandoned or overgrown fields. Lynx rarely use these areas, as they prefer to hunt and stay in thick cover of brush and evergreen timber stands. Lynx generally stick to cover even when traveling long distances.

Trap set constructions that are effective for bobcats also appeal to lynx. Lures and baits that appeal to one species also appeal to the other. To avoid lynx do not use rabbit parts as bait. (Jack rabbits are the only species of rabbit lawful to use as bait. All other species of rabbit are either protected or game animals, all prohibited for use as bait.) The use of tainted meat rather than fresh meat baits will also help in avoiding lynx. Keeping the baits lightly covered will intrigue canines yet reduce feline captures. Selecting trap locations where bobcat tracks are noted is best because bobcats are habitual in their travels and are apt to return to the same vicinity. If lynx tracks are noted, it is best to not make a bobcat set.

Incidental captures of lynx can be reduced by using a proper sized foothold trap. Number 2 coil spring or number 1.75 coil spring traps discriminate against lynx captures due to a relatively small trap jaw spread; yet this size trap maintains excellent efficiency for smaller footed coyotes, foxes, and bobcats.

Another alternative foothold trap to consider where lynx may be present is the padded jaw version of a coil spring number three trap. These types of restraining traps minimize or



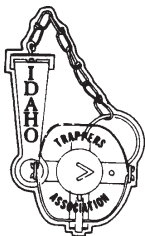
eliminate injury to lynx when they are placed so that the trapped animal cannot entangle the trap chain around any tree or other solid object.

All trappers should carry catchpoles to allow safe release of any unintended animal captures. Care should be taken to approach any trapped animals slowly to avoid excessive movements of the animal. A trapped lynx will allow the snare loop to be placed over its head, but it will likely react when the catch loop is tightened. Do not attempt to choke a lynx with the catchpole loop but rather force the animal to lie on its side so the trap may be removed. Then the snare loop should be relaxed and removed to allow the lynx freedom to escape.

Please notify the nearest IDFG office to report any lynx sightings or captures.

*Bobcat and lynx information provided by Howard Golden (Alaska Fish and Game) and Tom Krause (National Trappers Associations), 2002.*

The content of this brochure was prepared by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Department would like to thank the Idaho Trappers Association and the Upper Snake River Trappers of Idaho for contributing to the printing costs.



Idaho Trappers  
Association  
P. O. Box 184  
Leadore, ID  
83464

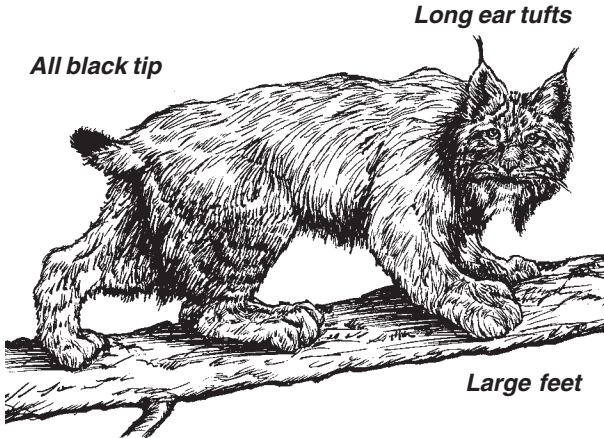


USRT of Idaho  
662 Victor  
Pocatello, ID 83202

# Identifying Lynx and Bobcats

The lynx is a threatened species which may be mistaken for a bobcat. The following comparisons are provided to help you distinguish between the two species.

## LYNX



- Tail:** 1. Has black tip which completely encircles the end.  
2. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip.
- Color:** Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.
- Face:** 1. Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5" long.  
2. Cheek tufts prominent.
- Feet:** Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.
- Size:** Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 lbs.). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.

# Identifying Lynx and Bobcats

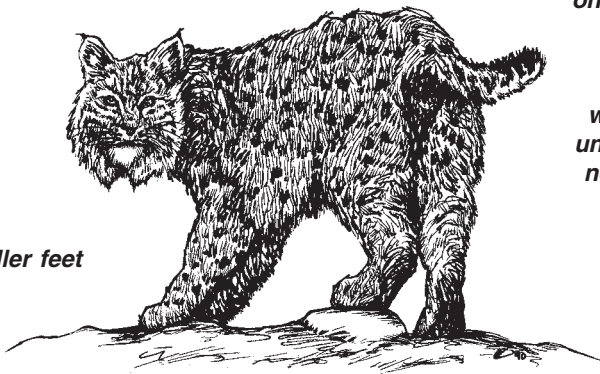
## BOBCAT

*Short ear tufts*

*Barred, tip black  
on top,*

*white  
under-  
neath*

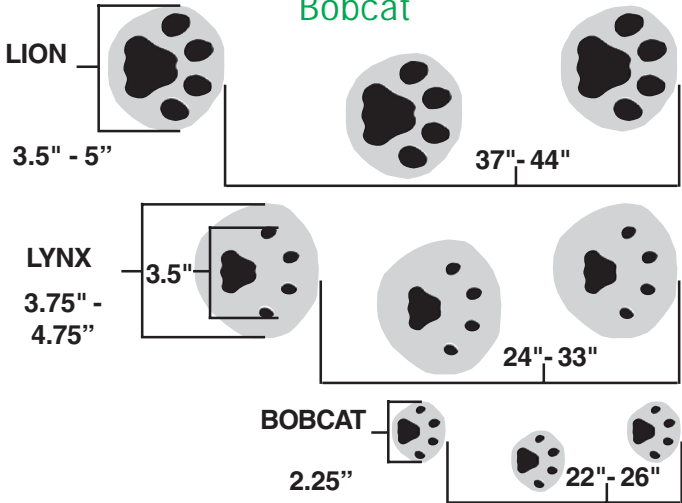
*Smaller feet*



- Tail:**
1. Underside of tail is white to the tip.
  2. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end.
- Color:** Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body - usually distinct black spots on belly.
- Face:**
1. Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long.
  2. Lacks prominent cheek tufts.
- Feet:** Appear small, lack hair development between pads - bare like those of domestic cat.
- Size:** Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 lbs.).

**Note:** The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.

# Tracks in Snow and Stride Length Comparison for Mountain Lion, Lynx, and Bobcat



- Mountain lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat foot is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length differences between species.

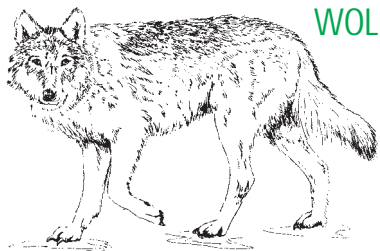
Track data - Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1999



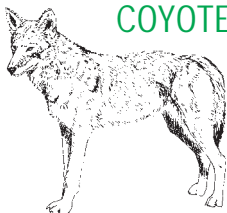
# WOLF MANAGEMENT IN IDAHO

## Differences in Physical appearance between canids:

SPECIES	WOLF	COYOTE
<b>Weight (lbs)</b>	70-120	20-35
<b>Height at Shoulder</b>	26-34 in.	16-20 in.
<b>Color</b>	black, white, all shades of gray & tan, grizzled, never spotted	all shades of gray & tan, white or black very rare, never spotted.
<b>Tail Carriage</b>	hangs down or straight out, never curls	hangs down or straight out, never curls
<b>General Appearance</b>	massive, long legged, first impression is often calf or deer	delicate, medium size, dog-like proportions with fox-like face.
<b>Ears</b>	rounded, relatively short, never hang down	pointed, relatively long, never hang down
<b>Muzzle</b>	large and blocky	long and pointed
<b>Track</b>	4-5 in. long with claws	2-3 inches long with claws



WOLF



COYOTE

See the following pages for actual size comparisons of the coyote (page 36) and wolf (back inside cover) tracks.

## Wolf management in Idaho

Wolves are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and it unlawful to kill one except in self-defense or in defense of others; or a livestock producer under certain conditions may kill a wolf on their private land. Because these are federal rules, they may be different now than when this brochure was published. Please contact IDFG or the USFWS for the most current rules or if you have any questions. In 2003 the legislature amended the law and allowed the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to become involved in wolf management. Now, IDFG is working cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state, federal, and tribal agencies to begin managing wolves in Idaho.

### During 2004, IDFG wolf management includes:

- 1) Enhanced monitoring of big game populations where wolves are common;
- 2) Increased monitoring of wolf populations in Idaho;
- 3) Preparation for delisting of wolves and preparing regulations for wolf hunting;
- 4) Collecting deer and elk hunter harvest data in areas with and without wolves;
- 5) Conducting research on wolf predation on big game animals;
- 6) Assisting in management of wolves and their impacts on livestock;
- 7) Providing objective information to hunters and the general public on wolves and their impacts on big game and livestock;
- 8) Assisting in enforcing laws and investigating illegal wolf kills;
- 9) Working with the public to understand their concerns;

You can help us manage wolves! Please report wolf pack activity. Record the date, exact location (preferably using a GPS location, or map coordinate), wolf description particularly the color of the individuals and if you noted a radio collar, and what they were doing. You can report this information to your local IDFG office. Also, we have a website with an abundance of wolf management

information along with a wolf report form that is easy to fill out and send. It is found at: [www.fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov). Please look us up on the website for more wolf information as well as other big game and wildlife information.

There are a few things you can do as a hunter to improve your chances of trapping success without conflicts with wolves and other large carnivores.

### Recommendations to avoid accidental capture:

- When setting coyote traps or other large furbearer traps, please be aware of any wolf sign in the area. Wolves travel great distances daily, but recent and common sign in an area may mean the wolves are there for a reason. Avoid catching wolves by avoiding recent wolf activity.
- Coyote traps can be improved to reduce the chance of losing traps or injuring wolves unnecessarily. Using heavy drag chains, with a swivel and heavy drag capable of holding a 100+ lb. animal may prevent the wolf from walking away with the trap. Avoid staking traps with a weak swivel and chain. Make sure all links are welded. A 7- foot or longer chain is recommended. A wolf may pull out of a trap if the stake and chain are solid. Double staking or cross pinning may be effective with stakes a minimum of 18-24 inches long.
- When using neck snares, trappers should purchase a brand name snare with break- away features. This will prevent not only accidental wolf capture but other big game animals or domestic livestock from being captured as well. Also, neck snares should be well anchored.

If a wolf is caught in a trap, please immediately contact one of the following numbers.

Idaho Fish and Game Regional Offices (listed on page 1)  
Wildlife Services: 1-866-487-3297 (toll free)/208-681-3127  
USFish and Wildlife Services: 208-378-5639/208-484-4875  
Nez Perce Tribe: 208- 634-1061

